

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KE, BR, MY

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNITS
REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2964 (DTG 290742Z MAY 75)
"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
QUOTE
R 011956Z JUNE 77
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1. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE
OF RESEARCH, MAINTAINS CERTAIN ELEMENTS ABROAD TO CONDUCT
MEDICAL RESEARCH IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE PARENT UNIT.
THESE ELEMENTS AND THEIR MISSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. US ARMY MEDICAL COMPONENT-BANGKOK, THAILAND: CONDUCTS
MEDICAL RESEARCH WHERE PROBLEMS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
ARISE WHICH ARE OF MEDICO-MILITARY IMPORTANCE. RESEARCH
IS DIRECTED TOWARD THE STUDY OF DISEASES OCCURRING IN
THAILAND, ESPECIALLY MALARIA.

B. US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-BRASILIA, BRAZIL: CON-
DUCTS RESEARCH ON SPECIFIC CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS TO DETERMINE
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THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN PREVENTING AND CURING SCHISTOSO-
MIASIS.

C. US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-BELEM, BRAZIL: CONDUCTS
EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES TRANSMITTED
AMONG THE POPULATION ALONG THE TRANS-AMAZON HIGHWAY IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTE EVANDRO CHAGAS.

D. US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA: CONDUCTS MEDICAL RESEARCH IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, KUALA LUMPUR, AND U.S. INSTITUTES ON THE TRANSMISSION, CONTROL, AND TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF MILITARY IMPORTANCE IN EQUATORIAL ASIA, ESPECIALLY SCRUB TYPHUS.

E. US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-NAIROBI, KENYA: CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON TROPICAL AND PARASITIC DISEASE ENDEMIC IN EASTERN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY AFRICAN TRYPA NOSOMIASIS. THE RESEARCH PROGRAM IS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF, AND IN LABORATORY FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, KENYA.

2. THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THESE UNITS IS MINIMAL. AS OF 24 JANUARY 1977 ACTUAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED WERE: THAILAND 28, BRASILIA 1, BELEM (TRANS-AMAZON) 6, MALAYSIA 5, KENYA 3.

3. THE UNITED STATES HAS ESTABLISHED FORMAL STATUS FOR THE THAILAND ELEMENT (AGREEMENT EFFECTED BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED 23 DEC 1960, 11 UST 2683, TIAS 4665, AND 25 APRIL 1963, 14 UST 459, TIAS 5430, AS AMENDED BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES SET FORTH IN BANGKOK 32283, DTG 260443Z NOV 76).
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THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE OTHER RESEARCH ELEMENTS. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY THROUGH DOD/ISA, HAS RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER NEED EXISTS TO FORMALIZE THE PRESENCE OF SUCH ELEMENTS IN BRAZIL, MALAYSIA AND KENYA.

4. FOR BRASILIA AND NAIROBI - REQUEST COMMENTS CONCERNING:

A. NECESSITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING FORMAL STATUS FOR RESPECTIVE ELEMENTS VIS A VIS HOST GOVERNMENTS.

B. FORM THAT SUCH STATUS SHOULD TAKE (E.G. WOULD EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES ANALOGIZING SUCH PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL OF U.S. MISSION UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 23 UST 3227, TIAS 7502, BEST SUIT PURPOSE OF U.S. IT IS NOTED THAT COUNTRIES IN QUESTION ARE SIGNATORIES TO SUCH CONVENTION).

C. WHETHER INITIATIVE TO FORMALIZE STATUS OF SUBJECT ELEMENTS IS NOW TIMELY.

5. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: REFTEL CONCERNED PROPOSED AGREE-
MENT WITH GOM. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS.

6. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WHICH ADDRESSEES FEEL MIGHT
BE HELPFUL WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE UNQUOTE. VANCE

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